

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROGRESS REPORT: TITLE II RICE PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 47266 B. PHNOM PENH 4101

1. SUMMARY. THE PRESENT TELEGRAM IS A STATUS REPORT OF PROGRAMS AGREED UPON AND PROPOSED AS OF MARCH 7 UNDER THE NEW TITLE II RICE PROGRAM IN CAMBODIA WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 3. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM WAS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 3 (MARCH 4 IN PHNOM PENH). ON MARCH 4 AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER. THE SAME EVENING A PRE-LIMINARY MEETING WAS HELD BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR, THE ACTING AID DIRECTOR, RESPONSIBLE KHMER CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND THE HEADS OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ACTIVE IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, FACED WITH THE NEED TO MAKE IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR PROJECTS DESIGNED TO UTILIZE THE NEW AUTHORITY TO USE FREE RICE TO FEED, NOT JUST THE REFUGEES, BUT ALSO THE NEEDY POOR, REQUIRED A DAY OR SO TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.

3. MEANWHILE, BEGINNING MARCH 5, THE FIRST DAY OF THE
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AIRLIFT AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE TITLE II PROGRAM, 20

METRIC TONS OF RICE WERE DELIVERED TO SEPARATE WAREHOUSE FACILITIES IN PHNOM PENH DESIGNATED FOR THE STORAGE OF TITLE II RICE. ON MARCH 6 THESE FACILITIES CONTAINED 100 TONS. ANOTHER 150 TONS WERE SET ASIDE ON MARCH 7 FOR THE USE OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MAKING A TOTAL OF 270 TONS NOW EARMARKED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THIS ACTIVITY CONSTITUTED THE FIRST STEP IN THE SEPARATE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR TITLE II RICE.

4. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WERE IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCTED TO DRAW RICE DIRECTLY FROM THE WAREHOUSE FOR THEIR REGULAR ONGOING REFUGEE PROGRAMS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH. NEW AND ADDITIONAL DRAWING OF RIC FROM THESE STOCKS WILL BE MADE BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ACCORDING TO THEIR REQUESTS AS ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ARE APPROVED. IN SHORT, DRAWINGS WILL BE AT THE RATE AND FOR THE PURPOSES ESTABLISHED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AS THEY EXPAND THEIR FEEDING PROGRAMS.

5. ON MARCH 6 THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND USAID HAD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING NEW PROGRAMS OR ADDITIONS TO ONGOING PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:
A. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES:

(1) A NEW SOOKED RICE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT BEGAN ON MARCH 7 FOR NEEDY KHMERS. AMONG THOSE TO BE AIDED ARE DESTITUTE FAMILIES, ORPHANS, WAR WIDOWS, INVALIDS AND THE AGED. THE INITIAL ESTIMATE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM IS 168 METRIC TONS A MONTH, BASED ON AN INITIALLY AGREED ALLOWANCE OF 150 GRAMS PER PERSON PER DAY. THIS WILL BE INCREASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS AS THE PROGRAM GETS UNDER WAY.

(2) AN ONGOING SOUP KITCHEN OPERATION FOR CHILDREN AGED FROM INFANCY TO TWELVE YEARS IN PHNOM PENH WILL BE DOUBLED, TO SERVE 56,000 EACH DAY. THE ESTIMATED REQUIREMENT FOR THIS PROGRAM IS 14 METRIC TONS A MONTH.

B. CARE:

A NEW DRY RICE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT, AGAIN FIGURED
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AT 150 GRAMS PER PERSON DAILY, WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 11 IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NUTRITION FEEDING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AGED FROM INFANCY TO SIX YEARS. RICE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE NUTRITION FEEDING SITES TO MOTHERS OF CHILDREN IN THE NUTRITION PROGRAM, AND TO OTHER SHILDREN OF THE SAME FAMILY. AFTER 30 DAYS, THE DISTRIBUTION WILL SHIFT TO COOKED RICE. DUJING MARCH THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO REACH 68,000 RECIPIENTS AND WILL REQUIRE 306 METRIC TONS.

THE TARGET FOR APRIL IS 172,000 RECIPIENTS, REQUIRING 774 METRIC TONS.

C. WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION:

(1) WORLD VISION WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY A NEW DRY RICE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT, BASED AGAIN ON 150 GRAMS PER PERSON PER DAY, TO FAMILIES OF PATIENTS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT IN FIVE PHNOM PENH CLINICS. MONTHLY REQUIREMENT IS ESTIMATED AS 139 METRIC TONS.

(2) WORLD VISION WILL USE TITLE II RICE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS IN A NEW 500-BED REHYDRATION CENTER WHICH IS TO OPEN FORMALLY ON APRIL 1. IT WILL ALSO DISTRIBUTE 150 GRAMS OF RICE PER DAY TO MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF PATIENTS. SOME DISTRIBUTION MAY BEGIN PRIOR TO APRIL 1 FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES BEING ACCOMMODATED TEMPORARILY, PENDING COMPLETION OF ALL THE FACILITIES.

6. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO SHIFT THEIR RICE DISTRIBUTIONS TO REFUGEES, BOTH IN PHNOM PENH AND THE PROVINCES, TO TITLE II RICE. THE TOTAL MONTHLY REQUIREMENT FOR THIS PROGRAM WILL EXCEED 3,600 METRIC TONS FOR ALL THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, UNTIL TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT, THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO PURCHASE SOME RICE LOCALLY IN THE PROVINCES FOR REFUGEE DISTRIBUTION. EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE TO ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION OF THE TITLE II RICE FROM PHNOM PENH TO ALL EXCEPT THE MARITIME PROVINCES. THE LATER WILL BE SUPPLIED FROM THE PORT CITY OF KOMPONG SOM, WHERE THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE WAREHOUSE WILL BE USED FOR THE TITLE II RICE STORAGE CENTER. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE FOR THE OFFICE NATIONALE DES COOPERATIVES (OFFINACO) TO STOCK THE WAREHOUSE FROM TITLE I RICE WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE AT KOMPONG SOM.

7. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE MEETING AGAIN ON MARCH 7 TO COORDINATE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL NEW PROJECTS, TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION AND OVERLAPS, SO THAT THEY CAN PRESENT REVISED PROPOSALS FOR APPROVAL ON MARCH 13:

- A. A CATHOLIC RELIEF PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ONGOING SOUP KITCHEN OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE PHNOM PENH AREA.
- X. AN EXPANSION OF THE FEEDING PROGRAM FOR ORPHANS, WIDOWS, INVALIDS, AND THE AGED. CARE AND WORLD VISION HAVE PROPOSALS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE ALREADY APPROVED FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. IMMEDIATE ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO MAPPING OUT SECTIONS OF PHNOM PENH FOR EACH

VOLUNTARY AGENCY, ESTIMATING THE PROSPECTIVE NUMBERS OF PERSONS TO BE FED, AND CALCULATING RICE REQUIREMENTS. C. CARE HAS SEVERAL WORK PROJECTS NOW UNDER WAY, WHICH CAN BE CHANGED TO FOOD FOR WORK BY INCLUDING RICE. CARE AND WORLD VISION HAVE PROPOSALS FOR NEW PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE STARTED AS FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS. BOTH ARE CALCULATING THE RICE REQUIREMENTS AND ENSURING ABSENCE OF DUPLICATION.

8. THE FIRST DISTRIBUTION BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE OF TITLE II RICE UNDER THE NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED ON MARCH 6 WAS MADE AT 4:P.M. ON MARCH 7 AT A WAREHOUSE WHICH HOUSES 210 DESTITUTE FAMILIES. THE RICE WAS PREPARED IN OVENS LOCATED AT WAT KAH, NEAR THE CENTRAL MARKET, AND WAS DELIVERED TO THE REFUGEE LOCATION. THE DISTRIBUTION WAS ATTENDED BY CONGRESSMAN STEVEN D. SYMMS, OF IDAHO, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, MINISTER OF REFUGEES KONG ORN, AND A SIZEABLE CONTINGENT OF PRESS AND TV CAMERAMEN.
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